

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00258 151529Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-14 /084 W

-----040386 151554Z /43

R 151457Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1748

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 258

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: SDLP EXECUTIVE REAFFIRMS PARTNERSHIP POLICY

REF: BELFAST 257

1. THE EXECUTIVE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) MEETING IN DUNGANNON, COUNTY TYRONE AUGUST 13 (A) CRITICIZED THE MAJOR UNIONIST PARTIES FOR SEEKING DOMINATION RATHER THAN ACCOMODATION, (B) ACCUSED THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT OF PURSUING A LONG-TERM POLICY TOWARD INTEGRATION OF THE PROVINCE WITHIN THE UNITED KINGDOM (IN EXCHANGE FOR UNIONIST VOTES AT WESTMINSTER) AND (C) REAFFIRMED POSITION THAT PARTNERSHIP (IN A DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT) WAS THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN IRELAND. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE STATEMENT WILL BE DEBATED FURTHER AT A MEETING OF THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE WITH SDLP MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. THE EXECUTIVE STATEMENT WAS RECEIVED WITH INTEREST IN NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL CIRCLES, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00258 151529Z

OF ITS MILDNESS. PRESS SPECULATION, AROUSED BY AN ARTICLE LAST WEEK BY PADDY DEVLIN, HAD CENTERED ON THE PROBABILITY THAT THE SDLP WOULD BRAND THE PURSUIT OF POWER-SHARING AS NO LONGER A RELEVANT POLICY, DEMAND A STATEMENT OF INTENT (TO WITHDRAW) FROM THE BRITISH AND EMPHASIZE SOME NEW INITIATIVE TOWARD AN "IRISH DIMENSION." IT APPEARS THAT THE PARTY LEADERS (FITT, HUME) ONCE AGAIN HAVE

SUCCEEDED IN FENDING OFF THOSE LESS MODERATE (CURRIE, MALLON, DUFFY) WHO WOULD SEEK THE DRAMATIC MOVE, PROBABLY OUT OF DESPERATION.

3. THE SDLP HAS FALLEN ON HARD TIMES SINCE THE CONVENTION CONCLUDED. IT IS LOSING SUPPORT ON ONE SIDE TO THE MARXIST REPUBLICAN CLUBS AND ON THE OTHER TO THE ALLIANCE PARTY. MORE MODERATE UNIONISTS HAVE BEEN STIFLED BY SDLP REACTION TO THE QUEEN' S VISIT. GERRY FITT HAS SEEN HIS INFLUENCE ERODED BY THE ARITHMETIC OF THE LAB/LIB PACT AND UNIONIST DECISION NOT TO OPPOSE AUTOMATICALLY THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT IN CRITICAL WESTMINSTER VOTES. THE "MOLYNEAUX PLAN" FOR A "SUPER-COUNCIL" IS SEEN, PROBABLY QUITE ACCURATELY, AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR DEVOLUTION IN THE SHORT-TERM. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT IS MUTE ON NORTHERN IRELAND. PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT, LOYALIST/UNIONIST PRESSURES FOR DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT ARE CURRENTLY MINIMAL. WITHOUT MAJORITY DEMANDS TO END DIRECT RULE THERE IS NO INCENTIVE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SEEK FORMULAE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SDLP. SUMMER IS TRADITIONALLY A TIME OF POLITICAL DOLDRUMS IN NORTHERN IRELAND HOWEVER, AND MOST POLITICIANS PREDICT A QUICKENING IN SEPTEMBER. THIS QUICKENING IS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW ALONG THE LINES OF EXPLORING THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE MOLYNEAUX PLAN. UNIONIST PLANS NOW ARE TO OFFER CERTAIN KEY COMMITTEE CHAIRS TO THE SDLP. THE SDLP WILL THEN FACE REAL CRISES OF ORGANIZATION AND CREDIBILITY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BELFAS 00258 151529Z

SPICER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, PARTNERSHIPS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELFAS00258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770293-1243
Format: TEL
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770863/aaaacavf.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4a23f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BELFAST 257
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1606112
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SDLP EXECUTIVE REAFFIRMS PARTNERSHIP POLICY
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI, SDLP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4a23f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009